

**British-Irish  
Parliamentary  
Assembly**



**Tionól Parlaiminteach  
na Breataine agus  
na hÉireann**

**TWENTY-NINTH ANNUAL REPORT**

**THE ASSEMBLY'S ACTIVITIES IN 2024**

**October 2025**

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## TWENTY-NINTH ANNUAL REPORT

### THE WORK OF THE BRITISH-IRISH PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY IN 2024

#### Introduction

1. This is the twenty-ninth annual report of the Assembly since it was decided at the Plenary Session in May 1996 that such a Report should be made. This Report summarises the work of the Assembly during the calendar year 2024.
2. The dissolution of the UK Parliament in May 2024 and of the Houses of the Oireachtas in November 2024 caused a temporary hiatus in the work of the Assembly and its committees: the UK Parliament delegation considered it impractical to host the plenary initially planned to be held in the autumn of 2024.

#### Membership of the Assembly

3. A list of Members and Associate Members at the start and close of 2024 is set out at Appendix 1.

#### The work of the Assembly in 2024

4. In 2015 it was agreed by the Steering Committee that the Annual Report should no longer contain a précis of the speeches made and questions asked on the grounds that the verbatim record is now available on the website ([www.britishirish.org](http://www.britishirish.org)). This, the 29<sup>th</sup> Report, therefore merely reports details of speakers and any specific or unusual arrangements.

#### ***66<sup>th</sup> Plenary Conference (Newtownmountkennedy, Co. Wicklow)***

5. The 66<sup>th</sup> Plenary Conference of the British-Irish Parliamentary Assembly took place at the Druids Glen Hotel and Golf Resort in Newtownmountkennedy, County Wicklow from 14 to 16 April 2024.
6. British Co-Chair, Rt Hon Dame Karen Bradley DBE MP opened the Assembly's proceedings on the morning of Monday 15 April by noting with regret the recent passing of Sir Tony Lloyd MP, a former Shadow Secretary of State for Northern Ireland and associate member of the Assembly.
7. The plenary was addressed by An Taoiseach, Simon Harris TD, in his first week in office. The Taoiseach emphasised the value of the British-Irish relationship and the work of the Assembly, welcomed the restoration of the Northern Ireland Executive and Assembly, and outlined the Government's Shared Island initiative including €800 million in funding commitments for cross-border projects. He challenged the Assembly to consider how to increase familiarity and dialogue between people

across the islands, noting concerns about declining student mobility and the importance of interpersonal relationships in sustaining peace.

8. Thomas Byrne TD, Minister of State at the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media, then addressed the Assembly on tourism's economic importance and cross-border cooperation. He highlighted that Great Britain accounted for 35% of overseas visitors to Ireland, generating over €1 billion in revenue, and outlined collaborative initiatives including the linking of the Wild Atlantic Way and Causeway Coastal Route, and preparations for jointly hosting UEFA Euro 2028 with the United Kingdom and the ICC T20 World Cup with England and Scotland in 2030.
9. Joanne Stuart, Chief Executive Officer of the Northern Ireland Tourism Alliance, provided a detailed presentation on tourism as a force for economic growth and regional development in Northern Ireland. She outlined tourism's contribution of £2.3 billion to the Northern Ireland economy in 2021 and its support for 7% of total employment. Stuart raised significant concerns about the introduction of electronic travel authorisations (ETAs), warning that requiring tourists crossing the land border from Ireland into Northern Ireland to obtain ETAs could prove disastrous for the sector, potentially placing tourists in legal jeopardy and deterring visits to Northern Ireland. The Co-Chairs undertook to write to the relevant UK authorities expressing concerns about the ETA policy.
10. Their Excellencies Paul Johnston, Ambassador of the United Kingdom to Ireland and Martin Fraser, Ambassador of Ireland to Great Britain, jointly addressed the Assembly on the promotion of British-Irish diplomatic relations. Ambassador Johnston emphasised the improved state of the bilateral relationship since 2022, noting the implementation of the Windsor Framework and restoration of Northern Ireland institutions. He outlined ongoing cooperation on energy, research and development, and preparations for the European Political Community summit at Blenheim Palace. Ambassador Fraser reflected on continuity in Irish Government policy regarding the Good Friday Agreement and shared island cooperation, while noting the changing global context and the dilution of regular contacts following Brexit. Both ambassadors responded to extensive questions on issues including the ETA policy, the European Convention on Human Rights, NATO membership, the Windsor Framework's implementation, and migration policy.
11. The Assembly then debated two motions on current international events. Following detailed discussion, the Assembly adopted a motion calling for an immediate humanitarian ceasefire in Gaza leading to a lasting sustainable ceasefire, the immediate and unconditional release of all hostages, a massive and sustained surge in humanitarian aid into Gaza, and urging all parties to comply with obligations under international law. Members raised concerns about the humanitarian crisis, with several drawing contrasts with the international response to other conflicts and calling for recognition of Palestinian statehood.

12. The Assembly also adopted a motion reaffirming its condemnation of Russia's illegal invasion of Ukraine, expressing solidarity with Ukraine's Parliament, supporting Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity, supporting efforts for a just and sustainable peace based on the Ukraine peace plan, and calling for accountability for Russia's war crimes. Members emphasised the continuing need for military and political support for Ukraine.
13. The Monday afternoon session opened with the Co-Chairperson, Deputy Brendan Smith TD, welcoming Alice Mansergh, chief executive of Tourism Ireland, to address the Assembly. The Co-Chairperson noted that Tourism Ireland was established as one of the six areas of cooperation under the Belfast/Good Friday Agreement framework in 1998. Ms Mansergh explained that overseas tourism generated €6 billion, or £5.1 billion, per annum in revenue, which had grown by seventy per cent over the past couple of decades. Tourism supported over 300,000 jobs across the island, with seventy per cent of those jobs outside Dublin or Belfast, making it an industry that enabled significant rural entrepreneurialism.
14. Ms Mansergh outlined current strengths including high awareness of Ireland as a holiday destination, year-on-year post-COVID recovery, and the strongest air access ever seen. However, challenges included cost-of-living concerns affecting consumer travel plans, roughly twenty per cent of accommodation out of use for humanitarian reasons, increased business costs, and the roll-out of electronic travel authorisation. Tourism Ireland was targeting 5.6 per cent year-over-year revenue growth on average from overseas tourism to 2030, with higher rates for regions outside Dublin and Northern Ireland. Ms Mansergh explained the award-winning "Fill your heart with Ireland" marketing campaign and strategic focus on spring and autumn seasons where capacity existed for growth.
15. The Assembly then welcomed Eoghan O'Mara Walsh, chief executive officer of the Irish Tourism Industry Confederation. Mr O'Mara Walsh noted that the sector accounted for thirteen per cent of the workforce in the Republic of Ireland, making it the largest indigenous industry and biggest regional employer, with 40,000 businesses supporting 254,000 jobs. He outlined early signs of a softening market, though the North American market remained strong. Mr O'Mara Walsh identified cost, capacity and competitiveness as the three major challenges. Government-induced labour costs would add €456 million to payroll costs in the current year alone and €1.4 billion by 2026, with the Confederation calling for restoration by the Government of Ireland of the nine per cent VAT rate and reform of employer pay-related social insurance.
16. On capacity, Mr O'Mara Walsh explained that twenty per cent of all tourism bedrooms in the Republic were currently contracted to the Government of Ireland for accommodation for Ukrainian refugees and international asylum seekers, which whilst honourable from a humanitarian perspective had a profoundly destabilising impact on the sector. Short-term letting legislation risked denuding rural areas of self-catering properties, and Dublin Airport's passenger cap needed to be increased.

Mr O'Mara Walsh emphasised the importance of seamless all-island tourism cooperation, noting that the electronic travel authorisation was not favourable to seamless travel and effectively created a soft border. All parties in Northern Ireland favoured a waiver for holiday visitors. The session then moved to questions and discussion, with Members raising issues including hotel development, cruise tourism, faith tourism, airport capacity, VAT rates, and the impact of short-term lets on local housing availability particularly in Irish-speaking communities.

17. Following the tourism presentations, Lord Dubs, Chair of Committee D, provided an update on the committee's work on rural housing. Lord Dubs explained that the committee was examining the need to balance and increase the availability of rural housing while keeping local communities intact, the different needs of coastal, inland and land-based communities, rural poverty, the impact of second homes and holiday lets, and sustainable development. Evidence from Donegal showed that 9,373 holiday homes were registered in the county, whilst Maynooth University research found thirty-seven times more short-term lettings than long-term lettings in the eleven rural counties examined. The committee was examining different models including planning controls, differential taxation, and a Lake District model where planning permission stipulated properties must be let or sold only to people living locally.
18. Multiple Members contributed to the subsequent debate, highlighting similar challenges across jurisdictions. Darren Millar MS noted that Welsh council tax premiums on second homes seemed to have only marginal effect. Tess White MSP highlighted healthcare recruitment and retention crises linked to housing affordability. Deputy Éamon Ó Cuív made an impassioned case for dispersed rural communities in Ireland, noting that thirty per cent of people lived in villages of fewer than 1,500 or in the open countryside. Lord Dubs concluded by thanking all Members for their contributions and looked forward in due course to the debate on the Committee's report.
19. The Tuesday morning session opened with updates from the remaining Assembly committees. Senator Emer Currie, Chair of Committee A (Sovereign Matters), provided an update on the Committee's work since the Assembly had adopted its report "Protecting the Common Travel Area in the post-Brexit era" at the October 2023 plenary. The Committee believed that the forthcoming UK electronic travel authorisation requirement would be at odds with Common Travel Area arrangements, would undermine the all-island tourism proposition established under the Good Friday Agreement, and would have a negative impact on tourism in Northern Ireland. On 19 February 2024, a Committee delegation had visited London and met the relevant Minister of State in the UK Home Office, Tom Pursglove MP. The Committee's next steps included seeking a meeting with the Irish Department of Justice and scoping a further inquiry into the registration of professional health and social care qualifications across the UK and Ireland.

20. Darren Millar MS, Chair of Committee B (European Affairs), provided an update on the Committee's work in relation to UK defence and security cooperation post-Brexit. Since presenting an interim report to the St Helier plenary in May 2023, the Committee had taken evidence in Dublin and had held a virtual evidence session with the UK National Crime Agency. In March 2024, the Committee had visited Helsinki and Tallinn to take evidence from the European and NATO centres of excellence on cyber-security. The Committee anticipated that its report would be published in time for the plenary planned to take place in Edinburgh in September 2024. Over the summer, the Committee planned to issue a call for evidence on its next inquiry in relation to migration.
21. Brendan Howlin TD, Chair of Committee C (Economic Affairs), presented the Committee's report titled "Government Energy Strategy and Consumer Energy Policy" for the consideration and approval of the Assembly. The Committee had examined policy responses of the BIPA jurisdictions to rapidly increasing energy consumer costs and increased focus on security and sustainability of energy generation. The Committee had sought written submissions and held virtual and in-person meetings with stakeholders across all jurisdictions.
22. Deputy Howlin outlined the Committee's thirteen principal conclusions, including that all jurisdictions were facing the same crises with urgent priorities to meet net zero targets and decarbonise electricity supply. Grid capacity across the BIPA jurisdictions needed to be significantly strengthened, requiring careful long-term planning and major investment. Interconnection between different parts of the islands helped to make energy markets more flexible, and the Committee welcomed the memorandum of understanding signed by the Irish and UK Governments in 2023. Energy poverty had risen despite Government interventions during 2022 and 2023. In the absence of the Assembly and Executive in Northern Ireland, there had been a delay in the application of the UK's energy bills support scheme. Making homes more energy efficient was necessary to help reduce household energy bills and enable jurisdictions to reach net zero targets, though current home retrofitting grant schemes had been found to be complicated and unattractive to consumers. The Committee's eleven recommendations included proposals for governments in BIPA jurisdictions to set clear long-term strategies encouraging investment in renewable technology and infrastructure, to assess storage capacity needs, to ensure clear plans for developing power grids able to accommodate growing renewable energy, to provide an update on actions following the 2023 Memoranda of Understanding, to work with energy companies to deliver clear benefits for communities hosting energy projects, to consider establishing time-bound targets for reducing fuel poverty, and to accelerate work to address barriers to making buildings more energy efficient.
23. Discussion followed, with Members raising issues including interconnection between the islands, energy security risks from subsea cable sabotage, and grid capacity concerns. The report was agreed by the Assembly, and the Co-Chair directed the joint Clerks would arrange for the report to be forwarded to the British and Irish

Governments, Crown Dependency Governments and the relevant Committees in each BIPA legislature.

24. Plenary proceedings concluded with an address by Gráinne O'Connor, manager of Cuilcagh Lakelands UNESCO Global Geopark, on regenerative tourism in a shared landscape. Ms O'Connor explained that Cuilcagh Lakelands was the first transnational geopark in the world, straddling the border of counties Cavan and Fermanagh, covering approximately 1,700 square kilometres with fifty-two designated sites of international geological significance. The geopark's mission was to nurture and protect the place where people lived from a sustainability point of view and to look at how tourism could contribute to conservation and landscape protection. She defined regenerative tourism as ensuring the visitor economy delivered a net positive benefit for communities, the environment and the destination, distinguishing it from sustainable tourism by emphasising leaving a place better after visiting.
25. Ms O'Connor provided a case study of the Cuilcagh Boardwalk, built in 2014 to mitigate landscape damage but which became a viral attraction nicknamed "Stairway to Heaven," attracting 120,000 to 130,000 annual visitors. During COVID there had been massive over-tourism, with BBC and UTV broadcasting appeals to people not to visit. Ms O'Connor outlined positive legacy projects including the Shannon Pot Discovery Centre and opportunities for cross-border trails and sustainable travel between sites. Discussion followed, with Members raising issues including the potential impact of Brexit and the ETA on seamless cross-border travel, dark sky tourism potential, and the value of international networking between geoparks.
26. The Co-Chair invited Mr Enn Eesmaa, a member of the Baltic Assembly from the Estonian Riigikogu, to address the Assembly, marking the first time the Assembly had been addressed by a member of a partner international assembly. Mr Eesmaa explained that the Baltic Assembly, representing Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, had started work in 1991 after those countries regained independence. He commended the recent work of Committee C on energy policy, and invited BIPA members to participate in a meeting on energy issues to be organized by the Baltic Assembly in Vilnius in May 2024. The Co-Chair remarked that all BIPA legislatures and governments had been and continued to be supportive of Ukraine, noting the motion the Assembly had passed unanimously the previous day.

## **The Steering Committee**

27. The Steering Committee met twice during 2024: in Macclesfield, Cheshire on 4 March and prior to the Wicklow plenary on 14 April. At both meetings the Committee discussed the continuing development of the Assembly, including the promotion of Assembly activities in BIPA legislatures; the resources available to the Assembly for its work; monitoring of the bilateral relationship between the two sovereign governments; development of relationships with similar international parliamentary assemblies in northern Europe; a more thematic approach to organising plenary programmes, and the potential revision of the current remits of Assembly committees to better reflect the challenges for public policy across BIPA jurisdictions. This work was expected to continue into 2025 following the appointment of fresh delegations by the UK Parliament and the Oireachtas.

## **Relations with partner assemblies**

28. The Co-Chairs received a number of invitations to attend events of the Assembly's partner legislatures—the Baltic Assembly, the Benelux Parliament and the Nordic Council—in the second half of 2024. Where it was not possible to arrange attendance by the Co-Chairs or other senior members of the Assembly, staff of the secretariat attended as observers.

29. The Assembly greatly values its relationships with its partner assemblies, both as a general principle of interparliamentary cooperation and in order to promote the broadest possible exchanges of views and best practice on policy issues of common interest.

## **Debates in BIPA legislatures**

30. The Steering Committee is keen to promote awareness of and discussion of the work of the Assembly in the legislatures represented in the Assembly.

31. On 23 January 2024 Emma Harper MSP secured a wide-ranging debate on the work of the Assembly in the Scottish Parliament, on the following motion:

“That the Parliament welcomes what it sees as the contribution of the British-Irish Parliamentary Assembly (BIPA) to enhancing government scrutiny, and in bringing together members of UK and Irish legislatures to discuss, debate and report on a wide range of policy areas facing society across all of the BIPA constituent areas, namely Scotland, Wales, Ireland, Northern Ireland, England, Jersey, Guernsey and the Isle of Man; understands that BIPA, established in 1990, has a core mission to promote co-operation between political representatives in Britain and Ireland for the benefit of the people who elect its members from all of the legislatures represented, while building on the close relationships established in recent years between

politicians throughout Britain and Ireland; further understands that BIPA members engage in a wide range of non-legislative parliamentary activities through biannual plenary meetings and ongoing committee work, and that it consists of five committees, which are Committee A (Sovereign Matters), Committee B (European Affairs), Committee C (Economic), Committee D (Environmental and Social), and a Steering Committee, which brings together and links the work of the various BIPA committees; notes that BIPA plenaries alternate between the BIPA regions and serve to debate topical issues and committee reports, and include a question period with a senior minister from the host country; understands that there are many reports that BIPA has produced for consideration by UK and Irish legislatures, including recommendations on small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), renewable energy, the transfer of prisoners, cross-border policing, the Good Friday Agreement, healthcare access and post-Brexit trade; believes that BIPA plays an important role in listening to evidence from individuals, business and wider society, including from the South Scotland region, to help inform government policy and foster relationships with elected members across the BIPA legislatures; wishes BIPA a long and successful future, and encourages everyone to look at the considered reports that are available on the BIPA website, [britishirish.org](http://britishirish.org).”<sup>1</sup>

32. The British Co-Chair, Rt Hon Dame Karen Bradley DBE MP, jointly sponsored a debate on St Patrick’s Day and the contribution of the Irish diaspora to the UK held in the Westminster Hall chamber of the House of Commons on 14 March 2024, and in her own contribution highlighted the contribution of the Assembly to greater understanding between parliamentarians across all BIPA jurisdictions.<sup>2</sup>

## **Committees**

33. The work of the Committees during the year is set out in Appendix 3.

## **Staffing of the Assembly**

34. Details of the staffing of the Assembly in 2024 can be found at Appendix 4.

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<sup>1</sup> The transcript of the debate is available at [https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/official-report/search-what-was-said-in-parliament/meeting-of-parliament-23-01-2024?meeting=15665&iob=133637#orscontributions\\_M3896E381P717C2552920](https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/official-report/search-what-was-said-in-parliament/meeting-of-parliament-23-01-2024?meeting=15665&iob=133637#orscontributions_M3896E381P717C2552920)

<sup>2</sup> The transcript of the debate is available at: <https://hansard.parliament.uk/Commons/2024-03-14/debates/E79E5DF3-2C93-4115-BC19-EDF1265A9F7C/StPatrickSDayIrishDiasporaInTheUK?highlight=bipa#contribution-7D26A5D5-5FF5-44F7-AA62-21946E36DB95>

## **Prospects for 2025 and 2026**

35. The timing of appointments to delegations after the British and Irish elections made it impracticable to hold a plenary in Ireland in the first half of 2024. The 67<sup>th</sup> plenary was scheduled to take place at the Oatlands Park Hotel, Weybridge on 12 to 14 October 2025, and the 68<sup>th</sup> plenary is expected to take place in Ireland in the spring of 2026.
36. The Assembly is likely to focus plenary themes on the delivery of the programme of enhanced policy cooperation set out by the UK Government and the Government of Ireland in their Joint Statement issued after the Liverpool Summit in March 2025.

## APPENDIX 1

### Membership of the British-Irish Parliamentary Assembly

#### *The UK Parliament—January 2024*

Rt Hon Karen Bradley MP	Kevin Brennan MP
Mark Menzies MP	Paul Bristow MP
Karin Smyth MP	Jackie Doyle-Price MP
Lord Bew	Colum Eastwood MP
Sir Peter Bottomley MP	Chris Elmore MP
Rt Hon Lord Bruce of Bennachie	Lord Faulkner of Worcester
Gregory Campbell MP	Baroness Hooper
Alistair Carmichael MP	Rt Hon Lord Kilclooney
Lord Donoughue	Tony Lloyd MP
Stephen Doughty MP	Joy Morrissey MP
Lord Dubs	Lord Northbrook
Lord Empey	Taiwo Owatemi MP
Lord Godson	Baroness Ritchie of Downpatrick
Damian Green MP	Gavin Robinson MP
Stephen Hammond MP	Liz Saville Roberts MP
Sarah A. Jones MP	Alexander Stafford MP
Mark Logan MP	Bob Stewart MP
Rebecca Long-Bailey MP	Lord Wood of Anfield
Conor McGinn MP	
Jerome Mayhew MP	
Nigel Mills MP	
Rt Hon Lord Murphy of Torfaen	
Richard Thomson MP	
Martin Vickers MP	
Lord Wrottesley	

#### *The UK Parliament—December 2024* General Election July 2024\*

Rt Hon Dame Karen Bradley MP	Colum Eastwood MP
Lord Bew	Chris Elmore MP
Rt Hon Lord Bruce of Bennachie	Lord Faulkner of Worcester
Gregory Campbell MP	Baroness Hooper
Alistair Carmichael MP	Rt Hon Lord Kilclooney
Lord Donoughue	Joy Morrissey MP
Lord Dubs	Lord Northbrook
Lord Empey	Taiwo Owatemi MP
Lord Godson	Baroness Ritchie of Downpatrick
Rebecca Long-Bailey MP	Gavin Robinson MP
Jerome Mayhew MP	Liz Saville Roberts MP
Rt Hon Lord Murphy of Torfaen	Lord Wood of Anfield
Martin Vickers MP	
Lord Wrottesley	

*\*—Delegation as constituted following the 2024 General Election pursuant to Rule 1(d)*

*Ireland —January 2023*

Brendan Smith TD	Michael Collins TD
Alan Farrell TD	Cormac Devlin TD
Senator Niall O’Donnghaile	Mairéad Farrell TD
Senator Frances Black	Senator Robbie Gallagher
Senator Victor Boyhan	Claire Kerrane TD
Jennifer Carroll MacNeill TD	Ruairí Ó Murchú TD
Sorca Clarke TD	Darren O’Rourke TD
Senator Lorraine Clifford Lee	Senator Fintan Warfield
Senator Martin Conway	
Patrick Costello TD	
Seán Crowe TD	
Senator Emer Currie	
Peter Fitzpatrick TD	
Gary Gannon TD	
Brendan Howlin TD	
John Lahart TD	
Mattie McGrath TD	
James O’Connor TD	
Éamon Ó Cuív TD	
Aengus Ó Snodaigh TD	
John Paul Phelan TD	
Neale Richmond TD	
Senator Diarmuid Wilson	

*Ireland —December 2024*  
General Election November 2024\*

Brendan Smith TD	Michael Collins TD
Alan Farrell TD	Cormac Devlin TD
Senator Frances Black	Mairéad Farrell TD
Senator Victor Boyhan	Senator Robbie Gallagher
Jennifer Carroll MacNeill TD	Claire Kerrane TD
Sorca Clarke TD	Ruairí Ó Murchú TD
Senator Lorraine Clifford Lee	Darren O’Rourke TD
Senator Martin Conway	Senator Fintan Warfield
Patrick Costello TD	
Seán Crowe TD	
Senator Emer Currie	
Gary Gannon TD	
John Lahart TD	
Mattie McGrath TD	
James O’Connor TD	
Aengus Ó Snodaigh TD	
Neale Richmond TD	
Senator Diarmuid Wilson	

*\*—Delegation as constituted following the 2024 General Election to the Dail pursuant to Rule 1(d)*

*The Scottish Parliament – January 2024*

Annabelle Ewing MSP  
Ross Greer MSP  
Emma Harper MSP  
Pauline McNeill MSP  
Tess White MSP

Jackie Dunbar MSP  
Jamie Halcro Johnson MSP  
Paul O’Kane MSP  
Collette Stevenson MSP

*The Scottish Parliament – December 2024*

Annabelle Ewing MSP  
Ross Greer MSP  
Emma Harper MSP  
Pauline McNeill MSP  
Tess White MSP

Jackie Dunbar MSP  
Jamie Halcro Johnson MSP  
Paul O’Kane MSP  
Collette Stevenson MSP

*Senedd Cymru – January 2024*

David Rees MS  
Heledd Fychan MS  
Darren Millar MS  
Sarah Murphy MS

*no associates appointed*

*Senedd Cymru – December 2024*

David Rees MS  
Heledd Fychan MS  
Darren Millar MS  
Sarah Murphy MS

*no associates appointed*

*Northern Ireland Assembly – January 2024*

Steve Aiken MLA  
Maurice Bradley MLA  
Colin McGrath MLA  
Kate Nicholl MLA  
Pat Sheehan MLA

Cathal Boylan MLA  
Alan Chambers MLA  
Mark H. Durkan MLA  
William Humphrey MLA  
Eóin Tennyson MLA

*Northern Ireland Assembly – December 2024*

Steve Aiken MLA  
Maurice Bradley MLA  
Colin McGrath MLA  
Kate Nicholl MLA  
Pat Sheehan MLA

Cathal Boylan MLA  
Alan Chambers MLA  
Mark H. Durkan MLA  
William Humphrey MLA  
Eóin Tennyson MLA

*States of Jersey – January 2024*

Connétable David Johnson

Deputy Hilary Jeune

*States of Jersey – December 2024*

Connétable David Johnson

Deputy Hilary Jeune

*States of Guernsey – January 2024*

Deputy Al Brouard

Deputy Chris Blin

*States of Guernsey – December 2024*

Deputy Al Brouard

Deputy Chris Blin

*Tynwald – January 2024*

Hon Juan Watterson SHK

John Wannenburgh MHK

*Tynwald – December 2024*

Hon Juan Watterson SHK

John Wannenburgh MHK

## **APPENDIX 2**

### **Resolutions agreed to and Reports adopted by the Assembly**

**Sixty-sixth Plenary, Newtownmountkennedy, Co. Wicklow, 15 and 16 April 2024**

The Assembly agreed to the following Resolutions:

#### **CURRENT INTERNATIONAL EVENTS: GAZA**

That this Assembly calls for an immediate humanitarian ceasefire in Gaza leading to a lasting sustainable ceasefire, for the immediate and unconditional release of all hostages, for a massive and sustained surge in humanitarian aid into Gaza to respond to the catastrophic humanitarian situation, and urges all parties to comply with their obligations under international law.

#### **CURRENT INTERNATIONAL EVENTS: UKRAINE**

That this Assembly condemns in the strongest terms Russia's unprovoked, illegal, full-scale invasion of Ukraine; stands in solidarity with the Verkhovna Rada; unreservedly supports the freedom of the people of Ukraine; and underlines its support for Ukraine's sovereignty, freedom and territorial integrity, and the right of the people of Ukraine to determine their own destiny; supports efforts to build for a just and sustainable peace in Ukraine based on the Ukraine peace plan, and calls for accountability for Russia's war crimes.

#### **DEVELOPMENT OF TOURISM AND PROVISION FOR HOUSING IN RURAL AREAS ACROSS BIPA JURISDICTIONS**

That the Assembly will consider the relationships between the development of tourism and provision for housing in rural areas across the BIPA jurisdictions.

#### **GOVERNMENT ENERGY STRATEGY AND CONSUMER ENERGY POLICY**

That this Assembly takes note of the report of Committee C (Economic Affairs) entitled Government Energy Strategy and Consumer Energy Policy.

## APPENDIX 3

### Work of Committees

#### *Annual Report of Committee A (Sovereign Matters)*

1. BIPA Committee A met twice in 2024; once on a visit in London in February and then at the plenary in Wicklow in April.
2. In February, the Committee met with the then UK Government Minister for Legal Migration and the Border to discuss the recommendations in its 2023 report 'Protecting the Common Travel Area in the post-Brexit era'. The Committee raised its concerns relating to the new UK Electronic Travel Authorisation scheme, and cross-border challenges relating to differing visa requirements.
3. At the plenary in April, the Committee agreed to engage with the Irish Minister for Justice on its specific proposals for joint visas and visa exemptions for short-term visits. The Committee also agreed to scope a further inquiry into dual registration process for healthcare professionals. It was not able to progress this work prior to the dissolution of the UK Parliament at the end of May 2024.
4. In early May, the Committee submitted evidence to the UK House of Lords Justice and Home Affairs Committee's inquiry into 'Electronic Border Management Systems', highlighting the recommendations in its 2023 report.

#### Attendance at meetings in 2024

##### *London, 19 February 2024:*

Senator Emer Currie (Chair), Nigel Mills MP (Vice-Chair), Lord Bew, Lord Empey, Éamon Ó Cuiv TD, John Paul Phelan TD

##### *Wicklow, 14 April 2024:*

Senator Emer Currie (Chair), Nigel Mills MP (Vice-Chair (participated virtually)), Lord Bew, Rose Conway-Walsh TD, Éamon Ó Cuiv TD, Lord Empey, Johnny Guirke TD, John Paul Phelan TD, Senator Diarmuid Wilson

### ***Annual Report of Committee C (Economic Affairs)***

The Committee began 2024 in the late stages of its inquiry into Energy Strategy and Consumer Energy Policy, having spent the previous year gathering evidence across the islands in support of this work. The Committee held a virtual meeting in February to agree a report of its findings. This report was formally agreed at the plenary in Wicklow in April, and presented to the Assembly by the then-Chair. The Committee held initial discussions about its future programme and the topic of its next project, but the elections in the latter half of the year prevented any progress being made.

### ***Annual Report of Committee D (Environmental and Social Issues)***

1. The Committee met twice during 2024. The Committee held evidence sessions at the Scottish Parliament in Edinburgh (18–19 January) and it also met in the course of the Plenary meeting at Druids Glen, Co. Wicklow (14 April). The Committee welcomed the newly appointed UK Clerk David Shiels, and thanked the previous UK Clerk Jillian Luke.
2. At the Committee's meeting in Edinburgh, it held five evidence sessions relating to its inquiry into rural housing. The Committee heard from architects on the theme of designing housing, and it took evidence from academics and from representatives from the charitable and community sectors in Scotland. It also heard from representatives of local government, the Scottish Government, and the Scottish Land Commission. The Committee thanked Tess White MSP and the International Relations Office at the Scottish Parliament for facilitating the meeting.
3. The Committee considered its future work plans at its meeting at the Plenary Session in Co. Wicklow. The Committee planned to hold further evidence sessions at the Welsh Parliament in Cardiff in June 2024, but these arrangements were stood down following the announcement of the Dissolution of the UK Parliament. The Committee agreed to invite further written evidence from organisations in Ireland and agreed to commission research from the Oireachtas Library and Research Service, which was subsequently progressed through the Vice Chair.

#### **Attendance at meetings of Committee D in 2024**

*Edinburgh, 18–19 February:* Lord Dubs (Chair), Seán Crowe TD (Vice Chair), Senator Victor Boyhan, Cathal Boylan MLA, Alan Farrell TD, Heledd Fychan MS, James O'Connor TD, Richard Thomson MP, Tess White MSP, Lord Wrottesley.

*Wicklow, 14 April:* Lord Dubs (Chair), Seán Crowe TD (Vice Chair), Maurice Bradley MLA, Heledd Fychan MS, Sarah Jones MP, Richard Thomson MP, Tess White MSP, Lord Wrottesley.

## APPENDIX 4

### *Staff of the Assembly in 2024*

#### **Ireland:**

*Clerk:*

Ms Regina Boyle

*Policy Adviser:*

Ms Emma McCarron

*Clerk, Committee A:*

Ms Rebecca Coyle  
and Ms Emma McCarron

*Shadow Clerk, Committee B:*

Ms Niamh Murray

*Clerk, Committee C:*

Ms Stephanie Bollard

*Shadow Clerk, Committee D:*

Mr Darren Kelly

*Irish Secretariat:*

Mrs Veronica Carr

#### **United Kingdom:**

*Clerk:*

Mr Martyn Atkins

*Political and Strategic Consultant:*

Mr Paul Evans CBE

*Shadow Clerk, Committee A:*

Ms Susanna Smith

*Clerk, Committee B:*

Mr Simon Horswell

*Shadow Clerk, Committee C:*

Mr George James

*Clerk, Committee D:*

Dr David C. Shiels

*UK Secretariat:*

Mrs Amanda Healy

*Media Consultants:*

Ms Áine McMahon, Press Liaison Officer, Houses of the Oireachtas

Mr Tim West, Committee Press Consultant, House of Commons